

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A skin cosmetic composition comprising:
 - (B) a hydrogel particle comprising a non-crosslinked hydrogel containing an oil component therein dispersed in
 - (B) an aqueous medium.
2. The skin cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogel particle (A) further comprises an emulsifying agent or dispersing agent.
3. The skin cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogel is made of agar or gelatin.
4. A hydrogel particle comprising a non-crosslinked hydrogel containing an oil component therein.
5. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein the oil component is emulsified or dispersed with an emulsifying agent or dispersing agent.
6. The hydrogel particle according to claim 5, wherein the emulsifying agent or dispersing agent comprises a macromolecular emulsifying or dispersing agent.
7. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein the oil

component comprises a solid fat, and the melting point of the oil component is not less than 35°C.

5 8. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein the oil component comprises a solid ceramide or an analog thereof.

10 9. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein not less than 80% by weight of the hydrogel particle is composed of a hydrogel particle having a ratio of a longest diameter to a shortest diameter (longest diameter/shortest diameter) of not more than 1.7.

15 10. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein the hydrogel particle has a breaking intensity of 2 to 40 kPa and a Young's modulus of 10 to 150 kPa.

11. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein the non-crosslinked hydrogel is made of agar or gelatin.

20 12. The hydrogel particle according to claim 4, wherein the non-crosslinked hydrogel is made of agar having a gel strength of not more than 68.6 kPa.

25 13. A process for preparing a hydrogel particle comprising the steps of:
discharging an oil component-emulsified or dispersed solution prepared
by dissolving a non-crosslinked hydrogel in an aqueous solution, with vibration

from an orifice to form droplets; and
cooling the droplets to solidify.

14. The process according to claim 13, wherein the oil component is
emulsified or dispersed in the aqueous component solution with at least one of an
emulsifying agent and a dispersing agent.

15. The process according to claim 13, wherein the
non-crosslinked hydrogel is made of agar or gelatin.

16. The process according to claim 13, wherein the non-crosslinked
hydrogel is made of agar having a gel strength of not more than 68.6 kPa.

17. A skin cosmetic composition comprising visibly recognizable
particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 5 mm and an aqueous
medium having a viscosity of 300 to 5000 mPa•s at 25°C and a specific gravity
of 0.7 to 2.0, said visibly recognizable particles being dispersed in the aqueous
medium.

18. The skin cosmetic composition according to claim 17, wherein the
particle comprises a conditioning component.

19. The skin cosmetic composition according to claim 17, wherein the
skin cosmetic composition is a lotion.